45. Al-Wasi'
(The All-Encompassing)

"The heart that knows Allah is vast,
for it contains what even the heavens and earth
could not contain."

- Bayazid Bistami (804-874 CE)
Source: Recorded in Attar's
"Tadhkirat al-Awliya"

Anyone desiring spiritual and material self-sufficiency should repeat this Name of Allah excessively - Al Hisnul Hasin

BI'ISMIHI TA'AALA

Asmaa ul Husna

—

The Most Beautiful Names of Allah ﷻ

Ml.Moosa Kajee

AL-WAASI ﷻ (THE ALL-ENCOMPASSING ﷻ)

Al-Waasi'ﷻ is that independent Being whose generosity has encompassed His needy servants and whose sustenance has encompassed His entire creation. His mercy and bounties are spread out. This shows that nothing can render Him helpless, nothing is hidden from Him and His mercy encompasses everything.

Thus the true All-Encompassing Being is only Allaahﷻ. If one gazes to His Knowledge, then one sees that there is no shore to the ocean of His Knowledge. In fact, the oceans would have come to an end if His praises were penned down. If one gazes towards His favours and bounties, then here too, there is no limit to them. Every vastness and expansion, no matter how great, comes to an end. The Being (whose knowledge, power, favours, etc.) do not come to an end is worthy of being called Al-Waasi'ﷻ.

The vastness of the creation eventually has a limit. For example, the power of an angel is tremendous. One angel can do such work which cannot be accomplished by millions of humans. However, the strength and course of action of each angel is only confined to the sphere for which it has been designated. The angel of death can extract the souls of millions in a second, but cannot give life to even one child in the womb of the mother. Jibraaeel عليه السلام can bring wahi (revelation) in the blink of an eye, but he cannot bring down rains as this is not his function. Similarly, the forces within man are limited. The ear can hear thousands of sounds, but it cannot see a single thing. The eye can view countless objects untiringly, but cannot hear a single voice.

Abu Ubaydah Muammar ibn Muthannaa رحمه الله states in explanation of the word واسع in this verse

that Allaahﷻ is very generous and has the full power to grant whatever He is asked. Then too, His treasures will not decrease to the extent of the hole of a needle.

Al-Waasi'ﷻis that Being who bestows and spreads His sustenance to all of creation. You will not find anyone except that he is eating that which has been stipulated for him, and he does not have the power nor is it possible for him to leave aside the stipulated sustenance of Allaah ﷻ and fulfil his needs elsewhere, since the bestower of sustenance is only one Being.

Allaahﷻ is All-Encompassing. His mercy encompasses everything. Heﷻ is the possessor of never-ending vastness. Heﷻ has granted His creation space and size

وَسِعَ كُرْسِيُّهُ السَّمٰوٰتِ وَالْاَرْضَ

His Throne encompasses the heavens and earth.

His knowledge is greater than the skies and earth

وَسِعَ رَبِّیْ كُلَّ شَیْءٍ عِلْمًا

My Rabb's knowledge encompasses everything.

وَرَحْمَتِیْ وَسِعَتْ كُلَّ شَیْءٍ

My mercy encompasses all things.

Allaah ﷻ's mercy has covered the universe. If even for one second, His mercy is removed, then the system of the universe will become destroyed. In every living thing, the soul of its life is from His mercy. If His special gaze falls onto anybody to a greater extent, then this person becomes drowned in total mercy. This is for that person who has annihilated his existence according to the desire and wish of Allaahﷻ. He ﷻ has surrendered his every movement in the pleasure of Al-Waasi' ﷻ.

From the person whom Allaahﷻ's gaze of mercy moves away, failure and loss come in his lot. No matter how much of outward means he has, he remains barren. This is that person who gives preference to his own desires over the desire of his Creator and Master. When these people are deprived of even atoms of mercy, then punishment descends upon them. Then, why should we not create a relationship with this Being in whose control is the rulership of everything? Allaah ﷻ, together with vast power, knowledge and mercy, forgives in great abundance.

Mentioning the vast sphere of His forgiveness, Allaah ﷻ states,

إِنَّ رَبَّكَ وَاسِعُ الْمَغْفِرَةِ

Verily the forgiveness of Your Sustainer is extremely vast. (Najm)

اگر اک تو نہیں میرا تو کوئی شے نہیں میری جو تو میرا تو سب میرا فلک میرا زمیں میری

If You are not mine, then nothing is mine.
If You are mine, then everything is mine, the sky is mine and the earth is mine.

Al-Waasi'ﷻ has created the heavens whose vastness cannot be comprehended. The galaxy cannot be measured. Besides a few stars, no one can even measure the width and breadth of the remaining ones. Those measurements which men lay claim to, is also not certain and conclusive. Nobody knows the beginning and end of these stars. Nobody can tell us the width of the epicentre of these galaxies. This extent of the length and breadth of the atmosphere, which we witness everyday, cannot be estimated by us. None can say how wide or long it is.

Never mind this; we cannot even judge the size of the mountains and its total length and breadth, even though it is found on the very same earth upon which we walk. Then who can judge the measurement of its internal recesses and area?
Who can inform us of the size of those mines hidden deep in the earth? How much water, gas and oil is there?

How much of fire, coal, sulphur and sand is there? Besides these things, there are so many other innumerable things of colossal measurement which we do not even have knowledge of. We have no idea and knowledge of the size of Jannah which we have been promised.

Allaah ﷻ states,

وَمَا يَعْلَمُ جُنُودَ رَبِّكَ إِلَّا هُو

And none knows the armies of Your Rabb except Him. (Mudhattir)

This means that the armies of Allaah ﷻ are so many that none besides Him knows them. The angels are so numerous that daily seventy thousand angels enter Baitul-Ma'moor for the worship of Allaah ﷻ, and their chance will not come again till Qiyaamah.

Think and ponder, why did Allaah ﷻ create all of these things? The Qur'aan gives us the answer:

وَ سَخَّرَ لَكُمْ مَا فِيْ السّموتِ وَ مَا فِيْ الأَرْضِ جَمِيْعًا مِنْه اِنَّ فِيْ ذلِكَ لَايت لِقَوْم يَتَفَكَّرُوْنَ

And He has made subservient for you whatever is in the heavens and in the earth, all of it from His side. Verily, in this are many signs for those people who ponder. (Jaathiyah)

All of these things have been created for the benefit of man, so that by pondering over them, one can recognize the Lofty Being of Allaah ﷻ and one can visualize the qualities of Allaah ﷻ, by which the greatness of Allaah ﷻ will be created in the heart and it will become easy to follow the commands of Allaah ﷻ. This is because whoevers greatness is in the heart, the importance of his commands will also be in the heart. The more the qualities of Allaah ﷻ are heard about and spoken about, so much more the conviction of these qualities will be created. As one's conviction grows, it will become easier to live one's life according to the commands of Allaah ﷻ.